From: Michael Meckler
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:31am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to comment on the currently proposed Microsoft settlement.

I write software for a living. Much of my time is wasted working around flaws in Microsoft's code and operating systems.

Microsoft is a monopoly, and they abuse their monopoly power to gain and retain market share. People who write software know how difficult it truly is to work with Microsoft. If Microsoft truly cared about innovation, if they designed APIs and tools that truly advanced the state of the art, then the vast cloud of animosity directed towards Microsoft would dissipate.

But that's not the case. Microsoft directs the vast majority of its resources towards simply increasing revenue, at the cost of the quality of its product. But we, the technology workers, are forced to deal with it. It costs us time, and money. The entire American economy suffers.

Microsoft must be forced to allow true competition on the desktop. American consumers and software developers need true choice, not the anemic alternatives offered by Macintosh and Linux. The current settlement does nothing to address these concerns; in fact, the proposal seems almost ludicrous.

Thank you,

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